

**Council Workshop
July 16, 2009**

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Marse called to order the council workshop of July 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor J. M. Marse, Council members Ray Jackson, Earl King, and Mark Martin. Council member Charlie Simmons was absent. Staff present: Fire Chief Ben Greenslait, City Planner Latilda Henninger, City Clerk Robin Haynes and Elizabeth Brannon.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman King gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Budget Workshop

Mayor Marse opened the workshop for discussion.

Clerk Haynes updated the council on the following items:

- Sewer department – connection fees projected too high – projected \$250,000 only received \$67,000. Department needs a new work truck.
- Water department – connection fees projected too high – projected \$50,000 only received \$17,000.
- Insurance renewal prices have not been received yet.
- Parks Department – contract with Dogwood Services to expire in August. Shane would like to not renew – do the work with assistance of prison work crew. Equipment needed would be lawn mower, chemical spraying equipment.
- Legislation regarding impact fees – fees to be used in local area fees assessed. Sewer pumps (individual residences) should be allowable to pull from impact fees.
- Mayor Marse asked Council to consider financing option to assist customers outside of City limits to connect to sewer system.
- Council member King recommended staying with a Hustler brand lawn equipment rather than the Bad Boy brand due to lack of servicing dealers in the area.
- Comp plan amendment (in draft form) contains some wording regarding the restriction of budget overages for the sole purpose of capital improvements. Council expressed disagreement with the language.
- Mayor Marse mentioned that the older lift stations would need some additional upgrading – should be able to fund from impact fees collected.
- Clerk Haynes stated that Peters Municipal was working on an application to Rural Development for the addition of customers in the Basin Bayou area. While looking at upgrading the water line, possibly consider trying a new type meter in the new service area as a test run. Numerous issues have developed with the Neptune meters currently being used.
- Chief Greenslait suggested looking at reducing some City benefits (such as floating holidays) as an attempt to cut some payroll costs.

III. Adjournment

Councilman King motioned to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, Council President